



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**TWO SAN ANTONIO MEN SENTENCED TO LENGTHY FEDERAL PRISON TERMS
IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD CASES**

United States Attorney **Johnny Sutton** announced that two San Antonio men will serve lengthy prison terms following convictions for federal firearms offenses.

Yesterday, United States District Judge Fred Biery sentenced 34-year-old Jesus Humberto Salinas to 15 years in federal prison without parole. On June 26, 2003, Salinas pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and an armed career criminal. On November 21, 2002, a San Antonio Police officer was dispatched to a local bar to investigate two children being left unattended in a motor vehicle for several hours. Salinas, the father of the children, provided police with a false identity. Both he and the mother of the children were initially arrested for public intoxication and failure to identify. A subsequent inventory search of Salinas' vehicle revealed two firearms: 1) hidden under the 1-year-old's car seat, a Smith and Wesson .357 caliber revolver plus a 9" dagger, and 2) on the dash in plain sight, a Tanfoglio .25 caliber pistol. According to the factual basis filed in this case, when the 3-year-old child woke up, he told the police officers, "those are just water guns." Salinas' criminal history reflects a 1990 conviction in Bexar County for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

On Friday, Judge Biery sentenced 32-year-old Luis Lurden Barrientes to 10 years in federal prison without parole. On February 7, 2003, Barrientes pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and an armed career criminal. On September 25, 2001, San Antonio Police detectives arrested Barrientes. At the time, Barrientes was in possession of a Colt .45 caliber pistol and a box of ammunition. Barrientes criminal history reflects several violent felony convictions in Bexar County in 1992 including sexual assault and burglary of habitation.

The prosecution of these cases is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

These cases were investigated by agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the San Antonio Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Gerry Matheny.

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